

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAIGON 13390 260012Z

72

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 IO-03 DPW-01 L-02 H-01

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 NSC-10 NSCE-00

EUR-10 RSR-01 /071 W

----- 055598

R 250059Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5058

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 13390

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT MILI VS

SUBJ: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, JULY 23, 1973

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON JULY 23 INFO CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB

USDAO SAIGON REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE

DANANG 945

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS REPORTED DURING THE PAST WEEKEND, BUT IT WAS LARGELY IN THE CATEGORY OF TERRORIST AND HARASSMENT INCIDENTS. THE CLASHES REPORTED OCCURRED IN THE PROVINCES SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS. ENEMY TRUCK MOVEMENTS AS MONITORED BY THE I CORPS G-2 WERE DOWN MARKEDLY FROM A WEEKLY TOTAL OF OVER 2,000 THE PREVIOUS WEEK TO 913 DURING THIS PAST WEEK.

JULY 21, I CORPS HEADQUARTERS BRIEFING: SEVEN CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS WERE REPORTED, CONSISTING OF ONE GROUND ATTACK, FIVE ATTACKS BY FIRE AND ONE HARASSMENT. GVN CASUALTIES: 5 KIA, 16 WIA; PRG/NVA CASUALTIES: 12 KIA. GVN ARTILLERY FIRED PRIMARILY IN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 13390 260012Z

QUANG NGAI (414 ROUNDS).

JULY 22:

TWENTY VIOLATIONS REPORTED, CONSISTING OF THREE GROUND ATTACKS, THREE ATTACKS BY FIRE AND FOURTEEN HARASSMENTS. GVN CASUALTIES: 4 KIA, 11 WIA; PRG/NVA CASUALTIES: 17 KIA. GVN ARTILLERY FIRED SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS (248 ROUNDS).

JULY 23:

ELEVEN VIOLATIONS REPORTED, CONSISTING OF THREE GROUND ATTACKS, THREE ATTACKS BY FIRE AND FIVE HARASSMENTS. GVN CASUALTIES: 3 KIA, 17 WIA.

PRG/NVA CASUALTIES: 17 KIA. GVN ARTILLERY FIRED PRIMARILY IN QUANG NGAI (248 ROUNDS). PRG/NVA B-40 GUNNERS MORTARED A CONVOY OF 35 TRUCKS SOUTH OF SA NUYNH IN QUANG NGAI ENROUTE FROM DANANG TO QUI NHON. NO DAMAGE REPORTED.

2. GVN MILITARY ACTIVITIES:

POLOFF QUANG NGAI REPORTS THAT RVNAF UNITS CONTINUE THEIR SLOW, STEADY ELIMINATION OF ENEMY BASE AREAS EAST OF NATIONAL HIGHWAY (QL) 1, WORKING LARGELY BY CHOKING OFF SUPPLY AND COMMUNICATIONS ACCESS. THE SLIGHT INCREASE OF INCIDENTS DURING THE PAST WEEK IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THESE LOW-LEVEL MILITARY INITIATIVES ACCORDING TO POLOFF. TWO BATTALIONS OF 6TH ARVN REGIMENT AND ONE REGIONAL FORCE (RF) BATTALION ARE TIGHTENING THE CIRCLE ON TWO PRG LOCAL FORCE BATTALIONS IN SOUTHEASTERN BINH SON DISTRICT (BS 6985). LTC LIEM, CO 4TH ARVN REGIMENT, INFORMED AREA DIRECTOR QUANG NGAI THAT HIS TROOPS ARE RAPIDLY CONSOLIDATING CONTROL OF SOUTHERN DUC PHO DISTRICT EAST OF QL-1 AND THAT HE WILL MOVE WEST INTO THE "RICE BOWL" AREA OF PHO TRANG VILLAGE (BS 8332) WHEN THE EAST IS SECURE. ARVN ENGINEERS IN MO DUC DISTRICT HAVE COMPLETED CLEARING TWO SITES NEAR NUI ONG DO (BS 7753) AT WHICH 3,000 REFUGEES ARE TO BE RESETTLED NEXT MONTH, ACCORDING TO POLOFF QUANG NGAI.

3. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY:

A. PRG/NVA GUNNERS DIRECTED MORTAR AND RECOILLESS RIFLE FIRE ON RANGER AND RF TROOPS ATTEMPTING TO REGAIN POSITIONS ABANDONED UNDER ENEMY PRESSURE IN EARLY JUNE SOUTH OF THE NGHIA HANH - MINH LONG ROAD IN QUANG NGAI (BS 6054). POLOFF QUANG NGAI COMMENT: THE MORTAR ATTACK SUGGESTS THE PRG/NVA REMAIN DETERMINED TO LIMIT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 13390 260012Z

GVN EXPANSION INTO THE SONG VE VALLEY AND TO FIGHT FOR WHAT ADVANTAGE THEY HAVE UNDER THE TENUOUS DE FACTO COMPROMISE WHICH HAD EMERGED IN THE LULL SINCE JUNE (REF DANANG 938).

B. THE PRG IN QUANG NGAI HAS RESPONDED TO THE GVN'S CONTINUATION OF SMALL-SCALE NIBBLING OPERATIONS WITH RENEWED PROPAGANDA APPEALS FOR AN END TO GVN CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, URGING OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS TO STOP PARTICIPATING IN OPERATIONS, TO STOP OCCUPYING "LIBERATED" AREAS WITH TROOPS, TO RETURN TO THEIR FAMILIES

AND ENJOY THE PEACE THAT "ALL VIETNAMESE" HAVE NOW WON. PRG
PROPAGANDISTS HAVE ALSO URGED LOCAL RESIDENTS TO PROTEST GVN LAND
CLEARING OPERATIONS BECAUSE OF THE ALLEGED DAMAGE THAT WILL BE
DONE TO THE ECOLOGY. POLOFF QUANG NGAI REPORTS THAT MILITARILY,
HOWEVER, THE PRG'S RESPONSE TO GVN "INCURSIONS" INTO PRG "LIBER-
ATED" AREAS HAS BEEN SURPRISINGLY LIMITED. THOUGH THE PRG STILL
HAS SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS OF TROOPS AND CADRE IN THE LOWLANDS,
BOTH EAST AND WEST OF QL-1, IT NOW APPEARS THAT THESE ARE BEING
SERIOUSLY THREATENED BY ARVN AND TF PRESSURE. THE DEFENSE OF
THESE LIBERATED AREAS HAS FALLEN ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY TO LOCAL
FORCE AND GUERILLA UNITS WHICH THUS FAR HAVE RECEIVED VERY LITTLE
DIRECT SUPPORT FROM THE NVA AND PROVINCIAL FORCE UNITS LOCATED
IN THE MOUNTAIN. SIGNED POPPLE
UNQUOTE MARTIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON13390
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MARTIN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730711/aaaaaidp.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <31-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, JULY 23, 1973 FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON JULY 23 INFO CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB
TAGS: PINT, MILI, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005